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BOOKER MOMENT FOR GEETANJALI'S TRANSLATED WORK

SIMI KURIAKOSE @ New Delhi

FOR Delhi-based writer Geetanjali Shree and translator Daisy Rockwell, their novel *Tomb of Sand* fetching the super-prestigious International Booker Prize was an epic moment. The award was a first for any Indian language book, and the first time a Hindi book made it to the International Booker shortlist.

"I accept it with a lot of humility, happiness and pride. I am very happy that I became a medium for the world to now take notice of Hindi. People should realise that, just like in Hindi, other Indian languages also have a literary world that they must become aware of," shared Shree. The book was originally published in Hindi as *Ret Samadhi* in 2018.

Namita Gokhale, writer and co-director of the Jaipur Literature Festival, said, "It has been translated with skill, empathy and exuberance. It is a proud moment for Hindi, the third-most spoken language in the world, and for all of Indian writing."

Satyanand Nirupam, editorial director of the publishing house, Rajkamal Prakashan, said: "We were very confident about this novel when we published it in 2018."

Noted Indian translator Arunava Sinha said, "This is a book that says 'give up everything else, just come and spend time with me and we will journey, we will travel.' While reading this book, you are forced to acknowledge the writing, the words, the sounds, etc, and that makes for such a satisfying experience, so removed from the way we consume art nowadays."

Such recognition also provides impetus to homegrown writers and translators. "The new generation lacked enthusiasm in or was confused about the rich heritage of Hindi literature. In such a period, to have this win is only going to attract people towards the language," added Nirupam.

Stressing that there exists "brilliant and relevant contemporary writing" in Indian languages, Gokhale concluded, "We need to break out of the hegemony of English."

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No proof, Aryan's name cleared in narcotics case

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

A file photo of Aryan Khan | PTI

A year after he was arrested in connection with a party drug haul, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Friday cleared the name of Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in the case.

The NCB's special investigation team (SIT) did not find any evidence of drugs or other related substance on Aryan or the other five accused. "The touchstone of the principle of proof beyond reasonable doubt has been applied... a complaint against 14 persons under various sections of NDPS Act is being filed. Complaint against rest six persons is not being filed due to lack of sufficient evidence," a note signed by Sanjay Kumar Singh, deputy director general of NCB, read.

It all began on October 2, 2021 when NCB Mumbai intercepted Vikrant, Ishmeet, Arbaaz, Aryan and Gomit at the International Port Terminal in Mumbai and Nupur, Mohak and Munmun at the Cordelia Cruise. Aryan did not have drugs with him. Yet, he was forced to sign papers admitting he was in possession of drugs. On the basis of the self-declaration in NCB custody, he was put behind bars, the note added.

According to officials, Aryan was arrested on the assumption that his friend was the drug carrier. "But the SIT found that Aryan's friend was not carrying any drugs for him. In fact, Aryan had told him to carry drugs. Besides, no drug was found on Aryan during the raid. He was also not subjected to a medical test to verify if he had consumed any narcotic. Even in Aryan's What'sApp chat record, no substantial evidence was found to file and pursue the case. Therefore, the charges framed by Mumbai NCB have been dropped against Aryan and other five," and NCB official said.

THE NCB Mumbai operation was led by Sameer Wankhede, but NCP minister Nawab Malik called it an extortion racket and outed the former's fake caste certificate, following which he was replaced as the probe officer. With the NCB now giving Aryan a clean chit, the Centre ordered a full-scale probe against Wankhade.

Household savings soar to two-decade high

Savings in the household financial sector surged as much as **3.6 percentage points to 11.5%** of gross national disposable income in FY21 — the highest in over two decades

CURRENCY IN CIRCULATION

The value of currency in circulation rises

10% to ₹31.05 Lcr

in FY22, constituting 13% of GDP

At the time of demonetisation, the value of currency in circulation was around

₹18 lakh crore

₹2,000 notes

31 March 2021	24,510 lakh
31 March 2022	21,430 lakh

The value of total 2000 bank notes in circulation in FY22 was **₹4.28 lakh crore** against **₹4.90 lakh crore** in FY21

COST OF PRINTING CURRENCY

RBI spent **₹4,985 crore** for printing currency notes in FY22, a

25% increase

from **₹4,012 crore** a year ago

EXPENDITURE UP, SURPLUS DOWN

RBI surplus fell from ₹99,122 crore in 2020-21 to ₹30,307 crore due to a

280% jump

in expenditure

The expenditure includes provisioning of

₹1.14 lakh crore

towards contingency funds

70% DROP IN TRANSFER TO GOVT

RBI paid only ₹30,307.45 crore to the government in FY22, which was 69.42% lower than ₹99,122 crore paid in FY21

This was because RBI's transfer to the contingency fund shot up to ₹1.14 lakh crore in FY22 against ₹20,710 cr transferred in FY21

₹61.9 Lakh Crore

RBI's balance sheet increased by 8.46% to ₹61.9 lakh crore in FY22

RISK OF HIGH INFLATION

Sounding a note of caution, the Reserve Bank of India said there is a risk of high wholesale price inflation putting pressure on the retail inflation, albeit with a lag

RBI said structural reforms are essential for sustained, balanced and inclusive growth, and to deal with the post-pandemic world | P13

Source: RBI annual report

Navy drills for security, not aggression: DefMin

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Karwar

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said here on Friday that India's maritime power enhancement is being done not with an intention of any aggression, but is aimed at peace and security in the region. He was speaking after undertaking a sea sortie on one of India's indigenously manufactured Kalvari-class conventional submarines INS Khanderi at the Karwar naval base in Karnataka.

Speaking to the media, the defence minister, who is on a two-day visit here, said he got "first-hand insight into the combat capabilities and offensive strength of the state-of-the-art Kalvari-class submarine". "India is enhancing its naval power not with any intention of aggression, but to protect its maritime boundaries and ensure peace and prosperity in the region," he added.

Sharing his experience on the sortie, Singh said, "I got to know how the country's naval power fares under water. It was a unique experience."

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EXPRESS READ

Curtains come down on RCB's campaign

Bengaluru: Royal Challengers Bangalore were knocked out of IPL 2022 after their 7-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals in Qualifier 2 in Ahmedabad. With RCB ending up on 157/8, Jos Buttler was in fine knick to score 60-ball 106 to help Royals reach the target with 11 balls to spare. P17

Monsoon onset delayed, to hit K'taka on June 5

Bengaluru: Onset of the most awaited southwest monsoon has been delayed due to various reasons. The monsoon, which was to hit the mainland on May 27, with an error of plus or minus four days, has been delayed by another 4-5 days, IMD officials said. P5

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